

Europe is probably one of the biggest failures of the human rights battle in the last ten years."

The more I learn about the plight of Roma, the more I am struck by certain parallels with the experience of American Indians here in our own country. Increasingly, Roma have begun to raise their voices not in search of special treatment, but for an opportunity to freely exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination.

At the OSCE's Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Istanbul in 1999, the United States strongly supported the commitment, adopted by all OSCE participating States, to adopt anti-discrimination legislation to protect Roma. It is heartening that a number of Central European governments, countries where Roma are the most numerous, have publicly recognized the need to adopt legislation that will protect Roma from the discrimination they face. The adoption last year of the European Union's "race directive", which will require all current EU member states, as well as applicant countries to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, should spur this effort.

The Helsinki Commission will continue to monitor the plight of the Roma in the 107th Congress.

#### CHINA RISKS FLUNKING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 101

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President. Ralph Cossa, President of the Pacific Forum CSIS, which is based in Honolulu, recently published an insightful analysis in the International Herald Tribune entitled "Spy Plane Poses Test That Beijing Risks Flunking." I will ask unanimous consent that his article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks, and I urge my colleagues and Chinese officials to read carefully his article. A recent colleague of Mr. Cossa's at CSIS, James Kelly, has been nominated by President Bush to be the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies' Pacific Forum has a long history of both monitoring and working to improve relations between the United States and China. For this reason especially, Mr. Cossa's analysis of the current crisis in American-Chinese relations is particularly disturbing.

As Mr. Cossa points out, "Beijing's automatic reaction to any mishap is to quickly incite anti-American sentiments. This is contrary to China's stated desire to develop improved relations with Washington."

He makes the point that some in China in the past have accused the United States of a "Cold War mentality" but that today it is China "that is demonstrating such a mindset in the way it has reacted to this accident."

Yesterday, Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed regret for the death

of the Chinese pilot and has made suggestions to the Chinese on how to resolve the current crisis and prevent further such incidents. Now it is time for China to respond with similar magnanimous gestures by releasing our air men and women and returning our aircraft. Any further delay may damage American-Chinese relations in an irreparable way.

I ask unanimous consent that the analysis to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the International Herald Tribune,  
Apr. 4, 2001]

#### SPY PLANE POSES TEST THAT BEIJING RISKS FLUNKING

(By Ralph A. Cossa)

HONOLULU—The collision between a Chinese fighter and an American reconnaissance aircraft in international airspace over the South China Sea is an unfortunate, unplanned, but nonetheless important test of the maturity of both the relationship between China and the United States. So far, Beijing appears to be flunking the test.

The collision, about 70 miles southeast of China's Hainan Island while the American plane was on a routine, unarmed surveillance mission, was probably caused by overzealousness on the part of the Chinese pilot.

Chinese jets routinely conduct intercept training against such convenient American "targets" but have reportedly become more aggressive, if not reckless, in recent months. The rules of the road call for the faster, more maneuverable Chinese F-8 jets that were involved in the collision to yield to the slower, larger EP-3 propeller-driven aircraft.

China's immediate handling of the incident—to publicly blame the United States even before the facts were known and to protest the U.S. spy plane's "violation" of Chinese airspace—was reminiscent of Beijing's handling of the aftermath of the Belgrade bombing, which was immediately branded a deliberate act. It seems that Beijing's automatic reaction to any mishap is to quickly incite anti-American sentiments. This is contrary to China's stated desire to develop improved relations with Washington.

Equally disturbing was Chinese refusal to grant American diplomats immediate access to the crew or to the plane, which is loaded with sensitive surveillance equipment (although much of it was no doubt destroyed by the crew before landing at the Chinese airfield).

Will China, the self-proclaimed defender of national sovereign rights, treat the plane as the piece of American sovereign territory that it is, or—as it has already done, according to some reports—board the plane and attempt to exploit its sensitive equipment? How China behaves will be a sign of just how important maintaining good relations with Washington really are for Beijing.

Some elements in China have long accused the United States of harboring a Cold War mentality. But it is China today that is demonstrating such a mindset in the way it has reacted to this accident. In his recent meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen of China, President George W. Bush pledged to treat the Chinese with respect. But respect must work both ways. The longer the release of the crew members is delayed, the more one must conclude that Mr. Qian's pledge to cooperate with Washington was an empty promise.

Continued Chinese heavy-handedness will certainly result in more calls for increased

arms sales by Taiwan's supporters in the United States. Any attempt by Beijing to trade the crew or aircraft's release for a reduction in arms sales is sure to backfire.

Poor handling of this incident by either side could result in a serious setback in the broader relationship and would magnify the impact of other decisions. Instead of merely asserting that the other is to blame, both sides should agree to cooperate in a full inquiry into the accident, aimed first and foremost at ensuring that this type of tragedy does not occur again.

The Chinese government should also ensure that a full, fair, and objective accounting of what actually happened reaches the Chinese people.

#### UND HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to recognize the University of North Dakota's Hockey team. As a native North Dakotan, I am very proud of the rich hockey tradition at the University of North Dakota. The defending NCAA Champion "Fighting Sioux" defeated Michigan State in NCAA hockey's "frozen four" semi-final today in Albany, New York by a final score of 2-0. They will defend their title Saturday at 4 p.m. in the national championship game.

Dean Blais, the team's coach, has done a fantastic job in continuing the UND hockey program's tradition of excellence. The "Fighting Sioux" have won a total of 7 national championships. In just 6 years as head coach, Blais has led the team to four Western Collegiate Hockey Association regular season titles in the past five years and National championships in 1997 and 2000. Last year, the "Fighting Sioux" were honored as the first collegiate hockey team ever invited to the White House.

The "Fighting Sioux" are led by Jeff Panzer, a Grand Forks, North Dakota native who is nominated for the Hobey Baker Award, which recognizes college hockey's top play. Panzer had 26 goals and 55 assists during the regular season and led the Nation in scoring with 81 points. But at UND, teamwork and team spirit has always been a paramount, and the team's success this year has once again been the product of a team effort.

On behalf of the entire State of North Dakota, I wish the "Fighting Sioux" the best of luck in the championship game on Saturday. I'll be cheering for you.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, April 4, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,777,864,856,329.85. Five trillion, seven hundred seventy-seven billion, eight hundred sixty-four million, eight hundred fifty-six thousand, three hundred twenty-nine dollars and eighty-five cents.

One year ago, April 4, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,758,855,000,000. Five trillion, seven hundred fifty-eight billion, eight hundred fifty-five million.